

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-05 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6440

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON "MARSHALL PLAN"

REF: KINSHASA 8678

1. BELGIAN VICE PREMIER HUREZ, IN KINSHASA TO ATTEND FUNERAL OF MOBUTU'S WIFE, MET WITH MOBUTU LATE OCTOBER 26 PRIOR TO RETURNING TO BRUSSELS. ACCORDING TO ALFRED CAHEN, SIMONET'S ASSISTANT WHO ALSO ATTENDED MEETING, HUREZ TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE QUESTION OF "MARSHALL PLAN". IN DOING SO HUREZ LAID OUT CONCEPT OF IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF ALL IMPORTANT SECTORS OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMY, INCLUDING INSERTION OF FOREIGN EXPERTS IN KEY MANAGERIAL POSITIONS AS MIGHT BE NECESSARY. ONCE GOZ AGREED TO SUCH MANAGEMENT CONTROLS, BELGIUM AND OTHER DONOR/CREDITOR COUNTRIES WOULD COORDINATE EFFORTS TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE. WHOLE PROCESS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ALREADY ENGAGED IN ZAIRE, PRINCIPALLY IMF AND IBRD. MOBUTU, WHO CAHEN SAID WAS VISIBLY DEPRESSED AND EXHAUSTED, MADE NO PARTICULAR RESPONSE AND INSTEAD DELIVERED HALF-HOUR MONOLOGUE ON HIS DECEASED WIFE.

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2. CAHEN SAID HE HAD SEEN BISENGIMANA TWICE DURING HIS VISIT AND BOTH TIMES HAD UNDERScored THE SAME POINTS HUREZ HAD MADE TO MOBUTU. BISENGIMANA--WHO CAHEN CONFIRMED IS PLAYING KEY ROLE IN FORMULATING NEW PLAN AND REMAINS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT-- APPARENTLY LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY BUT, LIKE MOBUTU, MADE NO DEFINITIVE RESPONSE.

3. CAHEN SAID TINDEMANS AND SIMONET HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THEIR TALKS IN WASHINGTON REGARDING A COORDINATED EFFORT TO ASSIST ZAIRE TO GET ITS HOUSE IN ORDER AND EFFECT ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HE SAID THE GERMANS WERE "ON BOARD", AS WERE THE SAUDIS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE FULLY IN A MULTILATERAL APPROACH WAS STILL UNCERTAIN. CAHEN SAID GOB WOULD SOON CIRCULATE NEW DRAFT(S) OF THE PLAN TO US AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS, WITH VIEW TO ACHIEVING CONSENSUS PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 24 WHEN MOBUTU IS EXPECTED TO OUTLINE MOBUTU (VICE MARSHALL) PLAN AND CALL FOR POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM ZAIRE'S FOREIGN FRIENDS.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CAHEN TENDS TOWARD PROFESSIONAL OPTIMISM, HE SEEMS CONFIDENT MOBUTU WILL ULTIMATELY AGREE TO MANAGEMENT REFORMS IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH IMF/IBRD AS PREREQUISITE FOR COMMITMENT BY DONORS TO MAKE NEW EFFORT (INCLUDING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES) TO HELP ZAIRE. FRENCH COOPERATION IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT, AND WE ARE NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE THIS WILL BE EASILY ACHIEVED. NOR SHOULD WE IGNORE THE SERIOUS POLITICAL OBSTACLES INVOLVED IN BRINGING MORE FOREIGNERS INTO KEY POSITIONS IN THE GOZ, AS WOULD SEEM ESSENTIAL AT THIS POINT IF MANAGEMENT IS GENUINELY TO BE IMPROVED. BUT THE BELGIANS DO SEEM TO BE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND APPEAR DETERMINED TO STAY ON THEIR PRESENT COURSE.

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